

# CHAPTER 3

## **Entering God's Rest Only Believe**

*“You will keep in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You,  
Because he trusts in You.”* (Isaiah 26:3 NKJV).

I thought I had finally reached the stage in my life where my writing days were over, finished, complete, kaput! After all I have written over 40 books and was satisfied with what I had accomplished, anyway there are heaps of books written by such wonderfully anointed writers as Joseph Prince, Andrew Wommack, Kenneth E. Hagin, Kenneth Copeland and many more.

So there I was relaxing in the sun - I had succumbed to a bout of the flu and so at my wife's badgering I was basking contentedly in the magnificent winter sunshine we experience on the Gold Coast. And then I heard the Lord prompting my heart about writing a book dealing with this discouragement, disillusionment and depression that seems so prevalent in our modern society. In fact the problem is so out of control that some church denominations actually employ psychologists on their staff to deal with the mental problems of the ministry!

As I have already said, we were never designed to operate under stress, but peace. One person who certainly knew how to be at peace while the world disintegrated around him was the Apostle

Paul. I like Paul, I like the way he writes, here is a man that wrote much of the New Testament, his ministry changed the world at a time when they were tossing Christians to the lions, impaling them on crosses and lighting them up like Roman candles - and yet he has the audacity to write; ***"but none of these things move me"***. The man must have tapped into something powerful to be able to say that!

### **Are You Driven or Led?**

If we are flowing with what God is doing we will be in a place of rest, but if we are still struggling and stressing - then it's obviously not God!

So how do we deal with this stress problem that seems to be destroying modern society? We don't know who wrote the book of Hebrews but most scholars believe it was Paul and he shows how there is a place of rest where the believer can walk in the finished work of Jesus. He writes; ***"Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. For we who have believed do enter that rest...."*** (Hebrew 4:1-3).

No longer stressed, driven, afraid, depressed and disillusioned. This place of rest is the place where miracles take place. This place of rest is not inactivity but a place of confidence in what Jesus has already done for us - His finished work. The Bible talks much about the 'Secret Place' - which I have heard described as everything from deep worship to His Word. However I believe that Jesus is the Secret Place - resting in His finished work is the resting place. ***"The conclusion is clear: the original rest is still in place for God's people."*** (Heb 4:9).

Some Christians make a great show of their faith, but are far different when the crises of life strike - and the storms do come. But back to Paul's writings, in The Book of Hebrews he talks about

a place of rest, how faith is a rest, not a struggle, not striving and stressing out. Yet many seem to be driven, not led. Books with titles such *"The Purpose DRIVEN Life"* imply God drives us. Sounds great, except I don't want to be driven! Let me define the word 'driven' for you. "Relentlessly compelled by the need to accomplish a goal ...operated, moved or controlled by a specific person or source of power."

It may have escaped our attention but Paul writes in Romans 8:14: ***"As many as are led by the Spirit of God they are the sons of God"***. The Holy Spirit doesn't drive people, the devil drives - the Holy Spirit leads!

My wife Jan is truly an amazing person, she has such an ability to walk in the peace of God, especially in stressful, troubling times. I have observed that lady under extreme pressure and yet she glides through it like nothing is wrong. And we have had to face some major crises together, such as when we lost our home in Cyclone Tracey - Christmas Eve, Darwin 1974.

But I vividly remember the day the heart specialist broke the news that she was suffering from heart failure. We were booked to fly to the USA in a few weeks and the specialist report sent me into a tail spin - not Jan, she took the news as though he was telling her she was suffering from a cold! Jan was unfazed; she went about her normal life praising God, still happy to fly to the USA for our meetings. When the doctor discovered our plans he reacted with the words, "You're not flying anywhere!"

But my beautiful wife just walked in the peace of God. One well meaning patient informed her that she, "would be on heart medication for the rest of her life!" Jan just looked at her, smiled and replied, "Thank you, but no I won't!" A few months later she was off all medication and back to normal. I love that woman, what a wonderful testimony she is to the Grace and faithfulness of our Lord!

So, how in a practical down to earth, no hype way - do we enter this rest? How can we lead a life of rest, to cease from our struggling, stressing, trying to make things happen, manipulating and struggling through days of endless strife, battling, discouragement and disillusionment? I love Pastor Joseph Prince's book 'Live the Let Go Life', especially the chapter entitled 'Becoming A Person Of Rest', in that chapter he talks about when we work, God rests, but when we rest (in Him) God works!

Let's look again at Hebrews; *"Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. For we who have believed do enter that rest.... "* (Hebrew 4:1-3).

Notice how that passage ends, *"For we who have believed do enter that rest.. "* It's those who Believe, who enter that rest! Sounds simple, but believe what? Believe in the finished work of Christ, He has done it all! There is nothing left for us to do but believe. It's not Jesus plus prayer, fasting, begging or anything else - it's Jesus alone. We are complete in Him! We are fulfilled in Him! We are seated with Him in Heavenly places! In fact, He has provided everything we will ever need for life and Godliness - now!

**The Law is what we do for God.  
Grace is what Jesus has done for us!**

It's complete, finished, all done - just believe it and enter His rest! So often we are crying out for the Lord to do something He has already done! "Oh Lord please pour out your Spirit on this land!" The only problem with that prayer is its unbelief - He has already poured out His Spirit in the book of Acts!

### **Unbelief**

*"Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly....." (Matt. 17:19-20. (NKJV).*

There is a difference between unbelief and a lack of faith. What is unbelief? It could be something as simple as care, worry or even fear; it comes down to our thought life. What we focus on and think about will eventually dictate what we believe. Many of us have been saturated by the world's thinking and are riddled with unbelief. Faith is a gift of God, but unbelief is the result of what you have allowed to enter your mind and heart. We are responsible for what we allow to enter our hearts – via the mind.

"I feel like my prayers don't get above the ceiling!" That's a prayer of unbelief! The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead lives within us - now! Your prayers don't need to get above your navel - that's where one third of the God head, the power house of the Trinity - now resides!

"I don't feel the love of God!" Well guess who moved? Hasn't the Lord promised us that He would never leave nor forsake us? Doesn't His word promise us that nothing can ever separate us from His love?

***"So now I live with the confidence that there is nothing in the universe with the power to separate us from God's love. I'm convinced that his love will triumph over death, life's troubles, fallen angels, or dark rulers in the heavens. There is nothing in our present or future circumstances that can weaken his love. There is no power above us or beneath us no power that could ever be found in the universe that can distance us from God's passionate love, which is lavished upon us through our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One!"*** (Romans 8:38-39 TPT).

Sadly, many 'believers' today want to pick and choose just what they believe. But that's absurd, who ever heard of an 'unbelieving believer'? Scripture tells us plainly: ***"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."*** (Hebrews 11:6 NKJV).

## **The Apostle Of Faith Down Under - Only Believe**

So believing is a prime essential to receiving anything from The Lord! Only believe! The motto of Smith Wigglesworth, a man with no education, no degrees in theology, couldn't read or write until his 20s, no Hebrew or Greek translations, no 50 translations of the Bible, no TV preachers or volumes of books on every subject under the sun...but he saw thousands healed, thousands saved, 14 people raised from the dead ...and touched the world! A man who possibly influenced the church in Australia more than any other preacher (with possible exception of Billy Graham). Wigglesworth said 'Only Believe', Jesus said "***All things are possible to him that believes.***"

Notice that's not addressed to the preachers, but to everyone that chooses to believe!

Wigglesworth was invited to Australia by Janet Lancaster of Good News Hall, Melbourne however he first ministered in Sydney where meetings were arranged by Dr. R. Fallon. Edwin Orr writes in his book '*Evangelical Awakenings in the South Seas*': "The great healing evangelist Smith Wigglesworth was relatively unknown when he arrived on his first trip to Australia.

Wigglesworth journeyed to Melbourne where he held meetings at Good News Hall and the miracles continued. Here is a testimony of what God did in those meetings: Winnie Andrews writes: "Wigglesworth landed here February 16th, and had a meeting that very night. The dear Lord was present to heal. A little girl of 6, having never walked, after she had been prayed for, walked out of the door with her mother, who was full of joy for what the Lord had done for her little one. The mother yelled excitedly to all around her: "Look at her! She's never walked in her life before!"

W. Buchanan, a Christian worker from Melbourne wrote, "We had three glorious weeks of triumphant victory in the Melbourne meetings. Fully one thousand souls were converted to the Lord Jesus Christ, and many scores were healed. In fact, the testimonies of those healed are still continuing to come in."

### **Woman Rose From Wheelchair**

“Many deaf people have been delivered in answer to the prayer of faith. One night a man and his wife whom he brought to the meeting in a wheel chair, were both healed. He had been suffering from deafness for 20 years and she had not walked for over 6 years. After prayer she walked to the station, with her husband pushing the empty chair. He, too, was rejoicing in that he was now able to hear perfectly. O what a wonderful God we have. Blessed be His holy Name!” (*Confidence Magazine*).

“Last night a young man suffering from consumption was prayed for and was instantly made whole. O, our hearts overflow at the glorious things God is doing in our midst! "Many have been healed of neuritis, heart and lung trouble and stiff joints. One woman who had not walked for 22 years and could not as much as turn her head—after prayer—got out of bed and walked, Praise God!" (*The Pentecostal Evangel*, April 15, 1922).

“The following is from Melbourne from Winnie Andrews, in connection with Wigglesworth's ministry there: A young woman declared: "I was brought to last Sunday's meeting a poor, dying woman, with a disease which was eating into every part of my being. I was full of corruption outside as well as in; but the Lord Jesus Christ came and loosed me and set me free. Since then I have slept better and have eaten heartily than I have for eight years."

### **Healings! Healings! And More Healings!**

When Wigglesworth prayed, the power of the Spirit came upon the people. Just some of the hundreds of healings included: \* Healed of tumour in hospital. \* High blood pressure. \* Displaced kidneys, running ear. \* Broken ribs and collar bone, pierced lungs.

“Another writes, “I have received the second handkerchief which you prayed over, and the Lord is blessing. This cancer is slowly drying up. I have had no more haemorrhages and the terrible odour is leaving. Praise the Lord.” (Meeting held in Richmond Temple, Melbourne. Published in *Triumphs of Faith*).

“One of the main ‘secrets’ to this great man of God’s incredible healing ministry was his strength and unshakable faith. He believed everything he read in the Bible and was not afraid to push through the limits in his faith with God. He wrote: “Believers are strong only as the Word of God abides in them. The Word of God is spirit and life to those who receive it in simple faith, and it is a verifier of all who own its sway. Know your Book, live it, believe it, and obey it. Hide God’s word in your heart. It will save your soul, quicken your body, illumine your mind. . . . Your life must be one of going from faith to faith.”

### **Australia Was Moved!**

“God is keeping me on fire. Hundreds are catching the flame. There has been much opposition and controversy, but I have left hundreds saved and healed in Sydney. Australia has been moved.”

Since researching and writing my book *‘The Apostle of Faith Down-Under’* the life and faith of Smith Wigglesworth has positively challenged me to rise to another level. My challenge to you is to also start taking Jesus (and Wigglesworth) at their word and “only believe”. Forget the failures and problems of the past, this is a new day, a new year – if an uneducated plumber from Bradford in the UK can experience the Lord move in such a powerful way – so can you and I. God is no respecter of persons, let’s stop looking to someone else to touch God for us – the prophet, the pastor, the TV evangelist – and take God at His word.

### **Only Believe - Healed Of A Stroke**

Strangely, I find whenever I preach about the power of God’s Word and simply believing – His power and grace manifests in the service. Not long ago I was teaching in our home church – Impact Ministries (Gold Coast), it was a regular ‘Supply of the Spirit’ night and I was sharing how the Lord had been dealing with me about simply believing. I spoke about how He was challenging me to change my way of thinking, if I wanted to witness a manifestation of the His power in my life. When I finished I sat



down and the congregation broke into a time of prayer. I noticed several women praying over a lady when suddenly she screamed and took off running, jumping and yelling. “Must have got a touch from the Lord,” I thought to myself.

The woman raced to the front grabbed the microphone and started yelling, crying and trying to testify. I looked over to Pastor Lorraine Reuben and shrugged – like what’s happening? Lorraine looked at me and said. “She’s had a stroke and that’s the most words I’ve ever heard her speak!” I just sat there dumbfounded. Here was the Lord manifesting His power right before my very eyes – this lady had been healed of a massive stroke – and I didn’t feel, hear or see a thing!

On another occasion I was preaching about the Grace of a God at a church in Melbourne when a lady told me how she had been sitting in the meeting when I shared about how we are to simply believe – to take the Lord at His word. Suddenly she sensed the anointing of God coming all over her. “So I reached over and touched my friend sitting next to me.” She said. “I knew she was suffering from sickness, I laid my hands on her and she was instantly healed!”

No one in the meeting knew anything about it; it was one of those glorious manifestations of God’s grace! Isn’t this the way the Lord operates – no man gets the glory but God?

How do you explain such things? There was no word of knowledge, no altar call for healing. I was the minister at the time but never touched the woman. How do you explain such things? Or instances such as a man with long term, serious mental problems – dependant on strong medication - suddenly and instantly delivered? How do you explain couples who have sat in church for years watching their marriage slowly eroding away, their love none existent! Suddenly there is a manifestation of God’s grace (unearned, undeserved) and the troubled couples are radically changed. They start acting like newly-weds and are all over each

other like a measles rash! Try and get your head around that! There is only one word for it – God’s grace had touched their lives.

How do we explain people from my own church who have been so radically transformed from a life of crime that even the police can’t believe what they see! The power of positive thinking just doesn’t cut it to that degree! These are radical, life-long changes to people, many who never even had had hands laid on them - God’s Word, His Grace and mercy has touched their lives!

### **Some Christians Simply Don’t Believe God’s Word**

I remember vividly when Jan and I first got saved and the church we attended did not believe in healing. They loved the Lord and were great people but they did not believe all of God’s Word. They believed that healing (as well as the gifts of the spirit, such as speaking in tongues) had passed away; some went so far as to say that such manifestations were of the devil! They radically opposed these things – despite the fact they were clearly mentioned in the Bible! The Gospel they preached was one of forgiveness of sin – and I certainly do not belittle that - but that’s only part of the Gospel that Jesus preached!

The word for salvation is ‘*Sozo*’ in the Greek which includes, healing, provision and protection. According to Vines the word translates this way: “sozo”... “to save,” is used (as with the noun *soteria*, “salvation”) (a) of material and temporal deliverance from danger, suffering, etc., e. g., Matt 8:25; Mark 13:20; John 12:27; 1 Tim 2:15; 2 Tim 4:18 (KJV, “preserve”); Jude 5; from sickness, Matt 9:22, “made...whole”...(from Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, Copyright (c)1985, Thomas Nelson Publishers).

### **Healed Of Cancer – But The Church Still Wouldn’t Believe!**

One incident that proved to me that some Christians do not believe this Gospel of the Kingdom (and in some cases actually oppose it) took place when we were pastors. A man had developed cancer and was given just a few months to live. His father related this

story to me personally, after leading his son to the Lord he began a bible study with him and eventually they came upon the passage which says; ***“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”*** (Mark 16:17-18 NKJV).

When they read that passage something exploded on the inside of the young man, he picked up the bible, drove into their small home town and strode into one of the local churches. “It says right here that if you lay hands on the sick they shall recover.” The young man related to the Pastor of the church.

The Pastor read the passage and replied. “But we don’t believe that healing is for today in this church!”

The young man just stood there blinking at the pastor, dumbfounded by his reply. And then said. “Well I don’t give a rip what you believe, that’s what it says in the Bible.” And with that he grabbed the pastor’s hand and placed in on his head.

The father was relating the story to me and added. “I don’t even remember what the bloke said or prayed! But later when my son went back to the doctor he was given a completely clean bill of health!”

Sadly, when the son went back to witness about his healing to the pastor of the small church they still would not believe it! As I said, some Christians simply do not believe the Gospel that Jesus Himself preached – the Gospel of the Grace! If one does not believe in such things then it’s virtually impossible to have faith to see these things manifested in their lives. How can we release faith in something we don’t believe is true or relevant for today? It’s impossible to have faith without adequate knowledge!

Jesus told his disciples to heal the sick, raise the dead, cast out devils and to proclaim to the people that ‘the kingdom of heaven is at hand’.

He demonstrated this in Matthew when he said: ***“If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.”*** (Matt 12:26-29 NKJ).

### **Entering God’s Rest**

But let's continue in Paul's writings in Hebrews: ***“For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: So I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter My rest, although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: And God rested on the seventh day from all His works; and again in this place: They shall not enter My rest. Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, again He designates a certain day, saying in David, Today, after such a long time, as it has been said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts. For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.”*** (Heb 4:3-10).

Notice the reason they never entered into that rest - because of disobedience! Now if I read this passage correctly it's telling me that to enter God's rest I am going to have to believe in His finished work and not try to add to the finished work of the cross!

The Mirror Paraphrase puts Hebrews 4:3 this way: ***“Faith (not willpower) realises our immediate access into God's rest. Hear the echo of God's cry through the ages, “Oh! If only they would***

***enter into my rest." His rest celebrates perfection. His work is complete; the fall of humanity did not flaw its perfection."***

So let me reiterate here, if those who believed entered the rest then those who didn't it was because of their unbelief. In fact everything we receive in the New Covenant - the New Testament is received by us believing it - not our works!

We receive the greatest gift of all - eternal life – by believing it! ***"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."*** (John 3:16-18 (NKJV)).

***"Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Just as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."*** (Galatians 3:5-6 NKJV).

We receive salvation- eternal life - by us believing, we receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, healing, provision - everything from The Lord, how? By believing! And that's how we enter the rest, the peace of God. And it's as simple as that! So a major key in entering into God's rest is - believing – renewing the mind to the finished work of Christ. ***"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.."*** (Romans 5:1 NKJV).

So, how is it practical not to be consumed by stress, worry and fear in our modern, pill popping, burned out, stressed out society? The answer is the Word of God. It's alive and powerful, it's the key to all of life's problems. It's renewing our minds until we believe what His Word says!

## **Focus On Jesus - The Living Word**

It must be possible to walk free of fear and that is why I love the words of Psalm 91; ***“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.”***

One of the major keys here is ***‘I will say of the Lord.....’*** It's not merely enough to think these promises; you must meditate and speak them out! Think about that, 'I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress!

With so much fear and terror the devil tries to get us to focus on it - thus reinforcing them even stronger in our lives, homes, churches and even the nation. But let's meditate and speak God's promises - not the devil's lies!

Say this: ***“GOD, you’re my refuge, I trust in you and I’m safe!” That’s right—he rescues you from hidden traps, shields you from deadly hazards. His huge outstretched arms protect you—under them you’re perfectly safe; his arms fend off all harm.”*** (Psalm 91 The Message).

I love those promises, but again let me remind you, we need to speak them over ourselves, our families, churches and nation. But there's even more. ***“Fear nothing—not wild wolves in the night, not flying arrows in the day, Not disease that prowls through the darkness, not disaster that erupts at high noon.***

***Even though others succumb all around, drop like flies right and left, no harm will even graze you... Evil can’t get close to you, harm can’t get through the door. He ordered his angels to guard you wherever you go. If you stumble, they’ll catch you; their job is to keep you from falling.....***

And even more... ***“If you’ll hold on to me for dear life,” says GOD, “I’ll get you out of any problem. I’ll give you the best of***

*care if you'll only get to know and trust me.  
Call me and I'll answer, be at your side in bad times;  
I'll rescue you, then throw you a party. I'll give you a long life,  
give you a long drink of salvation!"*

What awesome, awesome promises to us believers in these dark days. However we MUST renew our minds to these promises, meditating and speaking them out. Let Jesus - the incarnate Word of God - spell it out for you. *"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me, watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."* (Matthew 11:28-30 The Message).

Let's remember the Israelites wandered unnecessarily in the wilderness for 40 years. Why? Because of their unbelief – and yet Jesus spent a mere 40 days in the same wilderness because of his belief!

Believing makes the difference! *"Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end....."* (Hebrews 3:12-15 (NKJV)).

Jesus was at rest in the boat – asleep in the storm.

Paul was at rest - asleep in the jail.

So what does that tell us?

It's possible to be at rest during turbulent times of stress.